

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached replacement sheets for Figs. 12-14 of the drawings as originally filed. They have been labeled "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The drawings have been amended as required by the Examiner.

The claims have been editorially revised to improve clarity and expression. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been addressed. Independent Claim 1 has also been revised more particularly to set forth certain distinctive features of Applicant's invention, thereby placing Claim 1 in condition for allowance as will be discussed further below.

The withdrawal of Claim 3 and its dependents from consideration is acknowledged. The withdrawn claims have been so labeled herein. With the exception of Claim 7, the withdrawn claims have also been amended for clarity in order to place them in better condition for rejoinder and allowance in view of the allowability of Claim 1.

New Claims 23-38 have been presented in order to provide more comprehensive protection for Applicant's invention. All of the newly presented claims are readable on the elected species (Species 1). The new independent claims, Claims 27 and 36, will be discussed hereinafter.

Claim 1, as mentioned above, has been amended more particularly to set forth certain distinctive features of Applicant's invention. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended additionally to recite that a center of swaying movement of the gear pressing lever and a center of swaying movement of the operator lever are different from each other, and further, that the operator lever has a portion which presses a portion of the gear pressing lever and shifts relative to that portion of the gear pressing lever during an operation of the operation lever

It is apparent that the aforementioned features of amended Claim 1 are neither taught nor suggested by Satoh et al., which was cited as the basis for the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The asserted levers 33 and 34 in Satoh et al. evidently are part of the same member and have the same center of swaying movement.

Claim 1 thus distinguishes patentably from Satoh et al., and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn accordingly.

The newly presented independent claims also clearly define over Satoh et al. Regarding Claim 27, see the last two paragraphs thereof, and note especially the different pivot axes of the gear pressing lever and the operator lever, as well as the feature that the operator lever acts

on the gear pressing lever through a portion which moves relative to the gear pressing lever during operation of the operator lever. Likewise, see the latter-mentioned feature as set forth in the final paragraph of Claim 36. These features are not taught or suggested by Satoh et al.

The newly presented dependent claims of course define over Satoh et al. on at least the same basis as their underlying independent claims. As the withdrawn claims are now allowable in view of the allowability of Claim 1, rejoinder and allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

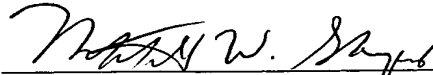
has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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